



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

Release Date: May 1, 2006
Release Number: TX 10456, 57, 58, 59 - 01

Contact: Rick Jenkins
Phone: (916) 735-1500

Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA - Small, non-farm businesses in the following Texas counties may now apply for low interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by adverse weather conditions throughout the state, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply for working capital loans to offset economic losses that are attributable to the impact of the following weather conditions and incident dates in each county.

EIDL	PRIMARY COUNTIES	CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES	INCIDENT TYPE	INCIDENT DATE	Deadline
10456	Wheeler	Collingsworth, Donley, Gray, Hemphill & Roberts and the Oklahoma counties of Beckham & Roger Mills	Fire & High Winds	03/12/06 – 03/15/06	12/18/06
10457	Collingsworth	Childress, Donley, Gray, Hall & Wheeler and the Oklahoma counties of Beckham & Harmon	Fire & High Winds	3/12/06 & cont.	12/20/06
10458	Gray	Armstrong, Carson, Collingsworth, Donley, Hemphill, Roberts & Wheeler	Fire & Extreme Wind	03/12/06	12/20/06
10459	Roberts	Carson, Gray, Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Ochiltree & Wheeler	Fire	03/12/06	12/20/06

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared these disasters at the request of Governor Rick Perry.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

For information and application forms call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Mail completed applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration at 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

###

SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 410004, Sacramento, CA 95841